

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
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AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /082 W  
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O R 231755Z AUG 77 ZFF-6  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8498  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3871

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)  
SUBJ: YOUNG VISIT FOLLOW-UP

REF: A. STATE 198352, B. PORT OF SPAIN 2310

1. ESSENCE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING AND LENGTHY DINNER/ DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER, FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO, ET AL, WAS REPORTED REF (B). AS THAT REPORT REFLECTS, ODUBER SOUGHT NO EXPLICIT COMMITMENT FROM US DURING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT NOR WAS ANY SPECIFIC ACTION PLEDGED. THE VISIT DID GENERATE SOME EXPECTATIONS, HOWEVER, PRIMARILY WITH RESPECT TO BILATERAL TRADE AND AID AND WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE US COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN AREA. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, ODUBER HAS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAS FOLLOWED EXTREMELY CLOSELY REPORTS OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ENTIRE TRIP AND THAT THEY SERVE TO REINFORCE THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND OPTIMISM WHICH HE SENSED IN HIS TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

2. BILATERAL TRADE AND AID: REF (B) DESCRIBES IN CONDENSED FORM GOOR EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN THAT US HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS IN ITS OWN INTERESTS TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIES AND ASSIST THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF COUNTRIES

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WHERE THERE ARE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS AND WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED. ON TRADE SIDE, COSTA RICANS REVIEWED THEIR REPEATED EFFORTS LAST YEAR TO OBTAIN A SLIGHTLY HIGHER MEAT QUOTA, THE INABILITY OF THE USG, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT, TO EXTEND GSP BENEFITS TO COSTA RICAN EXPORTS OF CHAYOTE, AND UNCERTAINTIES OF US MARKET FOR COSTA RICAN SUGAR EXPORTS. (AT ONE POINT, AFTER MENTIONING HIS EFFORTS TO MODERATE TORRIJOS AND TO

AVOID MANLEY'S ISOLATION FROM DEMOCRATIC MAINSTREAM IN HIMISPHERE, ODUBER SMILINGLY REMARKED THAT HIS FEE WOULD BE US ACCESS FOR TEN MILLION MORE POUNDS OF BEEF.) ON BILATERAL AID SIDE, ODUBER AND FACIO REMARKED ON IRONY OF SHARP REDUCTION IN US DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VERY NATIONS (I.E., COSTA RICA) THAT SEEMED TO BE ACHIEVING GROWTH WITH EQUITY AND WHICH RESPECTED DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND HUMAN RIGHTS. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND PARTY MADE NO EXPLICIT COMMITMENT, ODUBER CLEARLY WAS ENCOURAGED BY WHAT HE PERCEIVED TO BE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO HIS MAIN POINTS. HE REJECTED THE NOTION THAT SUCH AID MIGHT BE CHARACTERIZED AS A PAY-OFF IN ANY PEJORATIVE SENSE. RATHER, HIS EXPECTATION IS THAT THE USG WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO TRADE AND AID MEASURES THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO ASSIST COSTA RICA AND SIMILAR COUNTRIES, BOTH AS AN EXAMPLY TO OTHERS, AND TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELIABLE FRIENDS.

3. CARIBBEAN COOPERATION: IT IS ALSO QUITE CLEAR THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT LEFT ODUBER WITH THE HOPE, IF NOT THE EXPECTATION, THAT THE US WILL SUPPORT REGIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITHIN THE "GREATER CARIBBEAN BASIN". ODUBER'S PRESENTATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES AND MERITS OF A LOOSELY-ORGANIZED CARIBBEAN POLITICAL COALITION AND ECONOMIC UNION WAS SHORT ON SPECIFICS, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY BELIEVED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PARTY AGREED WITH HIS OVERALL THRUST AND REASONING, AND THAT THEY WOULD CARRY HIS MESSAGE BACK TO WASHINGTON.

4. SHAPE, STRUCTURE, COUNTRY COMPOSITION, ETC. ESSENTIALLY,  
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ODUBER'S THESIS IS THAT SPANISH-SPEAKING NATIONS OF THE "EXPANDED CARIBBEAN" (OR MID-AMERICA, TO USE HIS TERM) HAVE MORE COMMON AND BINDING INTERESTS WITH THE CARIBBEAN REPUBLICS THAT HAVE EMERGED FROM BRITISH, FRENCH AND DUTCH COLONIAL RULE THAN THEY DO WITH COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AMERICA BELOW VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA. POLITICALLY HE SEES EXPANDED UNITY OF PURPOSE AND COMPATABILITY OF WORLD VIEW BETWEEN COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, MEXICO AND POSSIBLY DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND PANAMA ON ONE HAND AND, ON THE OTHER, CARIBBEAN REPUBLICS WHOSE POLITICAL CULTURE AND INSTITUTIONS DERIVE FROM EUROPEAN MODELS. HE ENVISONS FORMATION OF A LOOSE POLITICAL COALITION OR GROUPING AMONG THEM WHICH OVER TIME WOULD INFLUENCE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE AREA TO MOVE FORWARD ELECTED GOVERNMENTS. HE ALSO ENVISONS THAT FUTURE CARIBBEAN REPUBLICS EMERGING FROM COLONIAL RULE (HE MENTIONED BELIZE) WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO GROUPING, SO THAT OVER THE NEXT QUARTER CENTURY IT WOULD BE THE DOMINANT BLOC IN THE OAS AS WELL AS A SIGNIFICANT BLOC IN WORLD POLITICS. ECONOMICALLY, ODUBER ALSO SEES SOME KIND OF LOOSE GROUPING, UNION OR COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT LINKING CARIFAC AND CACM AND EXPANDING THEIR COMBINED MEMBERSHIP AND ENCOURAGING GROWTH OF REGIONAL COMMERCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS NAMUCAR. ODUBER WOULD EXPECT TO SEE USG PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN FINANCING THE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRIES WITHIN THE REGION, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS WOULD BE ON A BILATERAL BASIS OR THROUGH SOME REGIONAL ENTITY. ALSO, MEMBERS OF REGION WOULD HELP EACH OTHER,E.G. IN CASE OF HAITI, VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS WOULD COOPERATE IN OFFERING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TIED TO IMPROVED PERFORMANCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA.

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